



Inspiring Minds | *Igniting Hearts*

Mrs. Maureen Ashby,
Principal

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Dear Holy Spirit Families,

Happy Summer! I hope that you are enjoying the time away from school and that you and your students are ready to embrace the new school year and all of the excitement that it holds. To those who are new to our school community, we welcome you and look forward to getting to know you.

I would like to take the opportunity to let you know about some of the new teaching assignments for the year and the new faculty who will be joining us. Of returning faculty, Mrs. Frances Whetstone will be one of our kindergarten teachers this year while Mrs. Anna Molino has moved to 1st grade and Ms. Sara Hicks has moved to 5th grade. New to our community this school year will be Mrs. Jean Black (middle school), Ms. Taylor Dailey (middle school), Mrs. Cheryl Lencz (4th grade), and Mrs. Kimberly Simmons-Le (2nd grade). We are blessed to have two folks who are returning to Holy Spirit, Mrs. Sue Gibbons (Resource) and Mrs. Sheila Lamb (Kindergarten aide).

If, by chance, your student has not completed his/her summer work, now would be great time to finish everything. It is difficult to produce quality assignments once the “regular” school days, homework, and other responsibilities kick into gear.

Mrs. Wild, our school nurse, has asked me to remind families with rising kindergarteners and sixth graders and all new students that the required medical forms must be returned by August 10th. School law prohibits school attendance without the required documentation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Wild.

If you are interested in either Morning Care or Extended Day, the registration documents are available on the website and you may send those in now with the registration fee.

On August 26th at 7:00 pm the NEW family ice cream social will be held in the school cafeteria. We invite all new families (parents and children) to join us.

On August 28th there will be an opportunity to meet the teachers, find out homeroom assignments and take a peek at the classrooms. Please join us at school from 1:00-2:30 pm. We look forward to seeing all of you then and ask that you please not come to school for an extra early sneak peek prior to August 22nd as the teachers and administration will be very busy with meetings and classroom set-up. This year the beginning of the year family packets will be available for pickup at the front office in order to give families the weekend to fill out the many required forms. Please return all forms on Monday, August 31st.

“Catholic schools afford the fullest and best opportunity to realize the fourfold purpose of Christian education, namely to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated.”

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, 2005

School for **Grades 1-8** begins on August 31st at 8:00 am. Please make every effort to begin the good habit of arriving on time. Teachers will meet the students outside and escort them to their classrooms. Parents are asked to say their goodbyes as they drop their children off in the carline. (If you want to park *after* you drop off your children you are welcome to.) Please refer to the handbook posted on the webpage for complete directions on arrival and pickup procedures. During the first week of school the vanpool slots for last year will be used with the EXCEPTION of kindergarteners who are now first graders. These students will be dismissed with the regular carpool unless they are in a group vanpool. Applications for vanpool slots will be sent home in the beginning of the year packet.

For **Grades 1-8** Monday, August 31st is an 11:30 am dismissal; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are 3:15 pm dismissals and Friday, September 4th is an 11:30 dismissal with no Extended Day Care. School lunches will begin on September 8th. Please pack a lunch for your child the first week.

A **kindergarten parent meeting** is scheduled for Monday, August 31st at 8:30 am. Kindergartners' first day will be Tuesday, September 1st, from 8:00 – 11:30 am. Both Wednesday, September 2nd and Thursday, September 3rd are full days for kindergarten. Friday, September 4th is a half day for all students.

The **prekindergarten parent meeting** is at 9:30 am on Monday, August 31st. The preschool orientation for the students and parents is on September 1st. Students with last names beginning A through L are asked to come from 9:00 – 9:45 am and students with last names beginning with M through Z are asked to come from 10:00 – 10:45 am. Classes begin for prekindergarten on September 2nd; this is a half day for all PreK students with dismissal at 11:30am. Thursday, September 3rd is a full day for those PreK students enrolled as full day students. Friday, September 4th is a half day dismissal for all students.

Morning Care will be open at 7:00 am on the first day of school. Morning care is located in Room 4. Please use the western set of doors (Exit 11). Grade levels may begin using Morning Care on the following dates:

Grades 1-8 – may begin using Morning Care on Monday, August 31st
Kindergarten – may begin using Morning Care on Tuesday, September 1st
PreKindergarten – may begin using Morning Care on Wednesday, September 2nd

Afternoon Extended Care for Grades 1-8 will be in the cafeteria. Afternoon Care for PreKindergarten and Kindergarten will be in Room 1. Grade levels may begin using Afternoon Extended Care on the following dates:

Grades 1-8 – may begin using Extended Day on Monday, August 31st
Kindergarten – may begin using Extended Day on Wednesday, September 2nd
PreKindergarten – may begin using Extended Day on Thursday, September 3rd
Afternoon Extended Day is closed completely on Friday, September 4th due to the early dismissal.

Information regarding the calendar, uniforms, supplies and reading lists can all be found on the webpage www.holyspiritflames.org.

I am looking forward to the start of the new school year. Thank you allowing us to be a partner in the education of your children.

Blessings always,

Maureen C. Ashby
Principal